



INFORMATION FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP RESUMING IN-PERSON OPERATIONS

The City of Wyoming recognizes rights under the United States and Michigan Constitutions of persons to gather with others to worship and engage in related faith-based activities. The City also recognizes that Governor Whitmer, federal and state health experts, and others continue to advise against large assemblies and other gatherings due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic concerns and against leaving their homes except for purposes outlined in her executive orders.

Accordingly, the City continues to urge worshipping communities to continue to limit their gatherings to remote (virtual) gatherings. While less than ideal, remote gatherings remain the best way to protect congregants and others from the COVID-19 virus.

Some worshipping communities have inquired about drive-in services. The City believes that using in-car radios or receivers, or using cellular communications, combined with other social-distancing protocols can also be effective in protecting the health of service participants. City staff is available to consult with faith communities on how such services can occur in ways that do not unduly impair traffic or adversely affect nearby residents.

Others wish to reengage in inside, in-person worship services and other gatherings. If choosing to do so, the City hopes that those faith communities will:

1. Continue to provide remote attendance opportunities for those who are part of vulnerable populations, those who may have been exposed to the virus, those who reside with or regularly are near vulnerable populations, and others exercising caution.
2. Screen persons seeking to attend using recognized screening criteria and precluding those with symptoms from entering the premises.
3. Use:
 - A. Social distancing protocols to keep participants at least 6 feet away from persons who do not reside in their households. Consider these protocols in relationship to choirs, music ensembles, worship teams, etc.
 - B. Personal protective equipment such as masks.
 - C. Hand sanitizing dispensers in many locations, especially at entrances to the buildings and rooms.
 - D. Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces.
 - E. Modified ventilation practices to filter inside air and increase circulation of outdoor air, perhaps even opening doors and windows and using fans to bring in outside air.
 - F. No-touch trash receptacles.
4. Display signage that:
 - A. Explains proper mask use.
 - B. Explains and promotes hand-washing hygiene and the use of tissues when sneezing.
 - C. Discouraging handshaking, hugging, and other physical contact.
5. Promptly report to the Kent County Health Department if anyone participating in or attending a service displays symptoms of or test positive for the COVID-19 virus.
6. Avoid food offerings when it is being shared from common dishes such as in buffet or family-style serving, instead using pre-packaged boxes or bags whenever possible.
7. Train clergy and lay leaders about these guidelines and how to help others comply with them.